WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Declining area of arable land

†1794. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of arable land in the country at present;

(b) the extent of decline in said arable land that took place during the last three years;

(c) to what extent agricultural production have been affected due to the said decline; and

(d) whether barren and Government's land holding would be allotted for agriculture purposes to expand the area of arable land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per available Land Use Statistics, arable land, measured in terms of cultivated area and area that can be brought under cultivation in the country, remains more or less stable at 183 million hectares over 4 to 5 years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Land and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as provided under the constitution. The Ministry of Rural Development monitors land reform programmes implemented by the States/UTs including distribution of Government Wasteland to the eligible poor. By September 2006, 148.55 lakh acres of waste land have been distributed.

Production of crops

†1795. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the crops the production of which have increased and the crops the production which has decreased during the last three years;

(b) the extent of decrease in the production of wheat, pulses and sugarcane; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.